

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

15 September 2000

ITEM: 16

SUBJECT: **Executive Officer's Report**

DISCUSSION:

Cease and Desist Order No 5-00-001, Bear Valley Water District, Alpine County

On 27 January 2000, the Board adopted a Cease and Desist Order (C&D) against the Bear Valley Water District (District) for seasonal discharges to an ephemeral stream (Bloods Creek) from the District's wastewater treatment holding pond. The Order imposed a time schedule for the initiation of several tasks. The District has submitted a contingency plan with interim measures to be implemented to prevent future unauthorized discharges until long-term measures have been implemented. The contingency plan has been reviewed and approved by staff, and the following contingency measures have been implemented by the District:

- A letter has been sent to District users, asking to them to reduce water usage;
- A letter has been sent to local water suppliers, asking to them to reduce the pressure of their water supply systems;
- Approximately 15 acres of spray irrigation has been added to the disposal area, and irrigation capacity has been increased with the addition of two large diesel pumps. As of 1 August 2000, the District had discharged 28 acre-feet more effluent to the disposal system than during the same period last year.
- A large aerator has been installed in the storage pond to increase the effluent evaporation rate.
- Suspect portions of the collection system are being smoke tested this summer and a line item has been included into the District's budget for implementation of a systematic smoke testing program of the entire system.
- Plans have been made and funds allocated for the installation of impervious manhole lids at locations subject to flooding and at other locations found to be major sources of inflow. It is anticipated that this will be completed by this fall.

The latest communication with the District indicates that the contingency measures implemented to date have been very successful, and projections are that, barring extremely unfavorable winter and spring weather conditions, unpermitted discharge to Bloods Creek should be avoided next year.

Staff has also approved a workplan for an inflow/storage/disposal system evaluation in preparation for a feasibility study of all reasonable alternatives to eliminate future discharges in violation of WDRs. The

completed report of study findings and a workplan for a feasibility study must be submitted by 10 October 2000.

The District Board of Directors has also just authorized a rate increase of 50%, and earlier this year the Board authorized a 100% increase in connection fees. (JRM)

Public Workshops on San Joaquin River Water Quality

San Joaquin River watershed section staff held three public workshops this summer on development of a Basin Plan amendment addressing salt and boron in the Lower San Joaquin River. At the first workshop, Regional Board staff described alternative water quality objectives and potential implementation actions. The second workshop covered related State and Federal programs and potential funding sources. Draft staff report chapters and copies of Power Point slides from the presentation were distributed at the workshops, by mail, and on the Regional Board's Web page.

At the third workshop on 16 August, Board staff gave an overview of concurrent water quality issues that addressed development of Total Daily Maximum Loads (TMDL) for salt, boron, organophosphorous pesticides, and dissolved oxygen, and the regulation of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharges. Joe McGahan, Grassland Bypass Project drainage coordinator, made a presentation on the regional effort to reduce selenium in subsurface agricultural drainage. (HHD)

Monitoring Program Issued to Department of Boating and Waterways

On 17 August, the Executive Officer issued a Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) to the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) requiring monitoring of water quality impacts resulting from the Department's Waterhyacinth Control Program. For over 15 years, DBW has conducted a program to control waterhyacinth, an aquatic weed, in the Delta and its tributaries. Water quality monitoring has been conducted as part of this effort, but this is the first time a formal MRP has been issued by the Board for the project. The MRP calls for monitoring for toxicity, pesticides residues and dissolved oxygen. (RJS)

Pinecrest Permittees Association, Tuolumne County

On 5 July 2000, staff received a complaint regarding severe nuisance odors at the Pinecrest Permittees Association wastewater treatment plant from the Lair of the Golden Bear summer camp. An inspection was conducted on 12 July 2000. Although nuisance odors were not noted at the time of the inspection, staff at the camp reported that odors had been severe all summer, and also reported observing foaming and discoloration in the North Fork Tuolumne River immediately below the treatment facility and unlined effluent percolation ponds. An inspection of the treatment facility revealed evidence suggesting that the treatment/storage/disposal capacity of the facility may be inadequate for current conditions. A letter forwarded to the Discharger along with the inspection report ordered the monitoring of the river in order to assess potential impact from the treatment facility. The Discharger was also informed that a technical evaluation of the treatment and flow capacity of the facility will be required as part of the process of updating Waste Discharge Requirements. (JRM)

Bentonite Spill during Williams Communications' Fiber Optic Cable Installation Project

On 12 August, approximately twenty different crews began working to install the Williams Communications, Inc. fiber optic cable between Sacramento and the Nevada border. One method of installation involves directional boring. This boring method has resulted in five unexpected bentonite spills into waters of the State. Bentonite is a water and clay mixture used to facilitate the boring process. This is in violation of the Conditional Water Quality Certification issued for this work. Williams Communications Inc., has been requested to provide additional information on the spills and technical reports regarding how they plan on ensuring future compliance with the conditions specified in the project's Conditional Water Quality Certification and evaluating alternative cable installation methods. Staff will be inspecting the spill sites and reviewing the additional information to evaluate impacts to water quality. Additional enforcement action will be considered if Williams Communications Inc., is unable to comply with certification conditions and prevent future spills. (MSR)

Notice of Violations Issued for Sierra Pacific Industries' Timber Harvest Plans

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), the largest timberland owner in California, has been issued Notice of Violations (NOVs) by the California Department of Forestry (CDF) for not complying with the conditions specified in their timber harvest plans. The violations were noted during completion inspections that are conducted by the CDF staff at the end of timber harvest plans in Calaveras County. Regional Board staff was notified of the violations in mid August by CDF staff and will be conducting joint inspections with them to evaluate and document potential water quality impacts at these Calaveras County timber harvest plans. Because of resource constraints, Regional Board staff have not been participating in these completion inspections. A complaint to the Calaveras County District Attorney is pending. (SYM)

Clear Lake Mercury Numeric Target Report

The Preliminary Draft of the Numeric Target Report for the Clear Lake Mercury TMDL has been released for stakeholder and public review. Although the report contains mercury data that is specific to Clear Lake, staff anticipate using the same approach for mercury TMDLs for other waterbodies. Only the scientific framework for numeric targets is presented at this point, not feasibility of attaining the target. The amount of mercury in fish tissue is recommended as the primary type of target. The report presents assumptions made for factors of safe daily intake level of mercury, body weight of consumer, and fish consumption rate, which were used in calculation of fish tissue targets. The calculations resulted in preliminary fish tissue targets of 0.1 mg mercury/kg fish (wet weight) for protection of human health and a range of 0.05 - 0.26 mg/kg for protection of various species of fish-eating wildlife. Humans tend to eat larger fish of a higher trophic level than most wildlife. Comparison of human and wildlife target values that were derived using the assumptions stated in the report suggests that reduction of mercury in top trophic level species to protect human consumers would also protect wildlife. Reviewers are being asked to comment on the assumptions as well as the preliminary target values. At the CALFED Science Conference on October 4, Janis Cooke will give a talk on mercury target development, the key assumptions in calculating targets and data gaps. (JBC)

ACL Complaint for Lower Laguna Creek Bypass Project

On 19 July 2000, the County of Sacramento (Discharger) was issued an ACL Complaint for the Lower Laguna Bypass Project in Elk Grove. The ACL complaint stated that the Discharger has violated

provisions of NPDES stormwater permits for discharges of sediments to the waters of the State, failure to develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and Monitoring Program, and failure to ensure compliance with the municipal Storm Water Management Plan.

On 15 August 2000, the County of Sacramento has agreed to waive the Board hearing by signing a waiver and paid the assessed civil liability of \$52,400. (LSS)

L-O Tenaya Lodge Spills Wastewater, Mariposa County

On 12 June, between 0230 and 0500, the Emergency Storage Tank at the Tenaya Lodge WWTF overflowed 100-500 gallons of filtered, disinfected secondary effluent into the operations building and on the ground adjacent to the tank, within the WWTF grounds. No contamination occurred. The spill resulted from operator error. Tenaya Lodge changed its operating procedures to prevent similar future spills. (BLH)

Malaga County Water District Spills Wastewater, Fresno County

On 1 August, Board staff inspected the District's WWTF in response to a complaint of wastewater spilling from a breached disposal pond. Staff observed an unknown quantity of treated, disinfected wastewater spilling from an emergency storage pond onto adjacent property. The District was discharging to the emergency storage pond to facilitate maintenance on a WWTF disposal pond. All of the other WWTF disposal ponds exceeded maximum capacity. The District ceased discharge to the emergency disposal pond and spilled sewage was allowed to infiltrate. An NOV is under preparation, with further enforcement a possibility. (ARP)

Exeter Packinghouse Discharges Oily Waste, Tulare County

Board staff inspected the Exeter Packinghouse in Tulare County upon receiving a complaint alleging off-site discharge of citrus wastewater. The inspector confirmed the complaint and also observed a discharge of oil and grease laden wastewater from a sump through a dedicated pipe to ground surface. The discharge of citrus wastewater appeared to be due to lack of disposal capacity. The discharge of oil and grease laden wastewater occurs from shop maintenance and washing activities. Board staff issued an NOV to the Discharger directing it to cease the discharge of the oily wastewater and to submit an RWD to provide additional disposal capacity for its citrus wastewater discharge operations. (GVG)

Tri-Valley Growers in Bankruptcy

Tri-Valley Growers (TVG), a grower-owned food processor having 10,500 employees and 500 grower-owners, and a cornerstone of the San Joaquin Valley economy for nearly seven decades, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. TVG lost nearly \$200 million during the last 3 years. TVG owns the former Oberti Olive processing plant in Madera, California which had released all but 12-15 employees earlier this year. The plant continues to cure a limited amount of olives that are shipped elsewhere for canning. The government subsidized European olive market has had a major impact on the local olive market. The Madera site has been the subject of ongoing groundwater remediation for many years, the result of processing wastewater brine from the old clay-lined ponds (since closed) impacting the underlying drinking/irrigation water aquifer. This resulted in TVG/Oberti replacing numerous private wells in the area, initiating groundwater remediation and constructing an \$11 million processing brine wastewater

treatment plant. Currently, all processing wastewater is treated at the plant with the effluent used for irrigation on TVG property. Extracted groundwater is discharged to 164 acres of "plastic-lined" ponds which remain to be closed. The remedial action has resulted in improving groundwater quality. (SRG)

New Dairies Being Challenged in the Southern San Joaquin Valley

Numerous large dairies have recently been proposed for the southern San Joaquin Valley. These proposals include two dairies in Kern County, known as the Borba Dairies, that at final build-out are proposed to house 28,400 cows on approximately 9,300 acres. On 25 July 2000, the Kern County Board of Supervisors approved the issuance of Conditional Use Permits for both sites after listening to more than five hours of public testimony both for and against the dairies. Several entities, including the Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment and the Sierra Club have indicated that they are considering filing a lawsuit to stop construction of the dairies on the basis that they believe the Environmental Impact Report is not adequate.

Four of five dairies proposed by the J.G. Boswell Company (Boswell) in Kings County have been withdrawn from consideration. Boswell proposed to obtain necessary permits and sell them as permitted sites. The first dairy was approved and permits issued with little opposition. That dairy is under construction and is anticipated to be milking approximately 1,800 cows by November. The remaining four dairies were delayed by a lawsuit filed by the Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment on the basis that the Environmental Impact Report was not adequate. The only comment from Boswell is that its decision to scrap the four dairies was a business decision. The four dairies as proposed would have housed 47,700 cows.

Madera County has recently approved the Wickstrom Farms and Gary Hooker dairies. These decisions are also being challenged by the Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment. The dairies would be located in western Madera County and are proposed to house a total of 20,603 cows.

Staff are continuing to work with each of these counties to assure water quality will be protected and effective monitoring implemented. Much of the expressed concern, however, is potential effects of air resources. (CLR)

Glennville Water Supply/Remediation Project, Glennville, Kern County

Due to higher than expected cost estimates for the project and the limited amount of funding available, contract negotiations with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants have ended. The decision was made to break the original project into individual phases. Working closely with personnel from the DAS Contract Office, staff developed a detailed scope of work for a limited portion of the original project. Completion of the scope of work will result in the delivery of work products necessary to evaluate the feasibility of installing a community water system for the residents of Glennville, in addition to the removal of the UST system located at the Glennville Shopping Center. An Invitation for Bid was advertised for the scope of work in the California State Contracts Register on 13 July 2000. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held at the Fresno office on 2 August 2000. Representatives from twenty-seven consulting firms attended the pre-bid meeting. Bid packages are due in the Fresno office by 2:00 p.m. on 22 September 2000. Staff anticipates that a contract for the Glennville Project will be executed by 1 November 2000.

(RWW)

Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Treatments in the Tulare Lake Basin Area

Tulare County and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) began treating the Porterville area for infestations at the end of June. Treatment continues at this time. Populations appear to be declining. The Tule River runs through the treatment area so CDFA has been sampling the River for residues, which have not been detected.

CDFA is also treating the Sunnyside Area within the City of Fresno. Treatment continues at this time. No waterways are near this treatment area. (LMW)

Outbreak of Gastroenteritis at Lake Shasta Campground

On 11 July 2000, over 100 people staying at the Shasta Lake RV Resort and Campground in Shasta County became ill with symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The facility has an on-site wastewater disposal system and a private water supply. The on-site wells tested positive for fecal and total coliform, and water samples and stool samples collected from ill campers indicated the presence of Norwalk virus. This facility had been under waste discharge requirements until 1975. The requirements were rescinded based upon no violations at that time and that the facility was also regulated by Shasta County. Inspections by staff indicate that well setbacks from leachfields and septic tanks may be inadequate.

Successful Redding Area Watershed Projects

This is follow-up to the Board's approval in August of this year's list of 319 non-point source grant projects. Over the past 10 years the State and Regional Boards have provided millions of dollars of grant funding to locally based watershed management groups (Resource Conservation Districts, watershed conservancies, and other landowner/agency partnerships) for implementing on-the-ground watershed improvement projects. While all areas of the State have received grants and implemented projects, this activity has been most prevalent in the Redding Office area, particularly within the upper Feather River and Pit River watersheds. Following are some examples of projects which have been implemented using 319 (and more recently Prop. 204) grant funds:

- Stream channel realignment and stabilization on Wolf Cr. within the town of Greenville
- Stream channel realignment/stabilization on Ward Cr. in Genesee Valley (Plumas Co)
- Stream and meadow restoration on Cottonwood Cr. in eastern Plumas Co.
- Stream and meadow restoration on Bear Cr. to reduce sediment discharges to Fall River
- Numerous livestock exclusion fencing projects in Modoc, eastern Shasta and Plumas counties to protect stream banks and riparian areas
- Several projects on Redbank Cr. and Reeds Cr near Red Bluff to reduce accelerated stream bank erosion and enhance riparian vegetation
- Projects to provide off-site watering facilities to mitigate the impacts of livestock concentrating in and near streams

In addition to direct implementation of restoration projects, funds have also been used to support staff for

local watershed programs, to conduct school and community watershed education, and to prepare watershed management plans thus laying the foundation for future stream protection/restoration projects. Currently, some form of locally directed watershed program exists within virtually every major tributary of the upper Sacramento River Basin. We view the efforts of these programs as being essential to the accomplishment of our non-point source water quality program objectives.

ACL Issued To Plumas County Sawmill

Collins Pine Company was issued an Administrative Civil Liability in the amount of \$30,000 for violations of its NPDES permit. The Discharger illegally discharged log deck recycle water and ash from a settling pond to surface waters. In addition, the discharge of power plant effluent caused the temperature of Stover Ditch, a trout stream, to increase by more than 20° F over background. These violations were first detected during a routine compliance inspection on April 14 and an aerial inspection on April 20 confirmed the illegal discharge to wetlands tributary to Stover Ditch and the North Fork Feather River. (GDD)

McCloud CSD Sewer Repair Update

Since adoption of a C&D Order and connection ban in June, the CSD has secured addition funding to repair or replace their dilapidated sewer system. A sewer master plan has been developed that calls for replacement of virtually all the sewer lines in the community at a cost of \$6.2 million. The CSD has been placed in the top funding category for a \$3.0 million Small Community Grant from the State Board. In addition, the district has received \$1.0 million from the States' general fund via special legislation, \$0.5 million from CDBG grants, \$0.25 million from tobacco settlements, and \$30,000 in county general funds. The last three sources will be used to connect existing sewer laterals not covered by the State Board grant. The CSD estimates that phase 1 of the project will be completed by October 2001.

Sewage Spill at Folsom South Canal, Sacramento County

On 14 February 2000, 6500 gallons of raw sewage spilled into Folsom South Canal from a Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) interceptor near Hazel Ave. The spill was caused by high wet weather flows from the City of Folsom. These high flows exceeded the capacity of the older portion of the SRCSD's sewer collection pipeline. Until the SRCSD completes its sewer collection system expansion in 2005, the potential exists for future spills to Folsom South Canal. The SRCSD paid an administrative civil liability in the amount of \$10,000, and a Cleanup and Abatement Order was issued to the SRCSD and the City of Folsom to study and implement strategies to prevent future spills. (KYN)

ACL Complaint Lodi White Slough Water Pollution Control Plant, San Joaquin County

On 9 June 2000, the EO issued an ACL Complaint in the amount of \$20,000 to the City of Lodi for the discharge of approximately 600,000 gallons of treated wastewater that exceeded the residual chlorine effluent. The discharge occurred over an eight-hour period on 4 January 2000 and was attributed to equipment failure during a period when the facility was not staffed. The City has added an additional alarm mechanism to the chlorination/dechlorination process, which should prevent the reoccurrence of such a discharge. The City has waived its rights to a public hearing for the ACL Complaint but has requested to fund a supplemental environmental project (SEP) with up to 50% of the fine. The City is preparing a proposal for the SEP for EO approval, which will likely include a stormwater pollution

prevention public awareness program at the Lake Lodi Interpretive Center. (RSF)

Discharge to Surface Water at Ironhouse Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant, Contra Costa County

Ironhouse Sanitary District operates a municipal wastewater treatment facility adjacent to the San Joaquin River in Oakley, Contra Costa County. Treated effluent is used for reclamation on agricultural land owned by District on the mainland and neighboring Jersey Island. Jersey Island is below the flow level of the river and protected by levees. The island has a network of dewatering ditches that drain to an automated pumping station, which discharges directly to the river. The District is completing surface water and groundwater quality studies to determine whether its proposed expansion of the Jersey Island reclamation area would cause water quality impacts.

On 1 August 2000, the District reported that undisinfected treated effluent had ponded in the reclamation field and breached a runoff control berm, resulting in a release of approximately 160,000 gallons effluent into the Jersey Island dewatering system during the previous night. The spill was due to the operator's failure to comply with the District's Standard Operating Procedures and/or inappropriate operating procedures. An NOV was issued on 9 August 2000. Because this violation was the third accidental release to surface water caused by operator error in less than 18 months, and the Spill Prevention and Control Plan submitted in response to the last NOV failed to prevent the incident, the NOV requires that the District submit a revised Spill Prevention and Control Plan. (ALO)

Discharge to Surface Watercourses at City of Plymouth, Amador County

The City of Plymouth wastewater treatment plant disposes of effluent to spray irrigation fields near Plymouth. An NOV was issued on 22 August 2000 after a site inspection confirmed effluent discharge to surface waters that are tributary to Little Indian Creek. The inspection also found the City violated the WDRs by failing to conduct required monitoring, not posting signs alerting the public to reclaimed water, not maintaining two feet of freeboard in the influent treatment pond, not maintaining a 100-foot buffer zone between spray irrigation area and surface waters, and disposing of effluent outside the areas designated in the WDRs. The NOV requires the City to cease discharging wastewater in violation of its WDRs, increase monitoring of the spray fields, and submit a detailed report on all corrective actions taken. The City has also been requested to submit a RWD. (ASB)

Odor Problems at City of Riverbank Wastewater Treatment Plant, Stanislaus County

The City of Riverbank operates a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Riverbank, Stanislaus County. An NOV was issued on 1 August 2000 based on numerous odor complaints received from the public. The odor problem was due to excessive discharge of tomato processing waste from one of the City's industrial dischargers. There has been a pattern of similar problems at the onset of the tomato-processing season every year for the last several years. The NOV required the City to take immediate action to alleviate the odors, enforce the industrial discharge permit, and develop a program to prevent future occurrences. To date, the City has installed additional aerators; expedited construction of electrical improvements to allow additional aeration capacity and prevent electrical overloading; and has begun assessing a fine against the industrial discharger for each day of violation. The City is required to submit a Pretreatment Program Assessment Report and a technical report describing additional plant improvements that will be made

before the next tomato processing season. (ALO)

Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order for Basic Vegetable Products, Modesto, Stanislaus County

Basic Vegetable Products, Inc. operates an industrial wastewater disposal system at its vegetable processing facility in Modesto. An NOV was issued on 30 June 2000 based on a facility inspection and odor complaints received from the public. This was the third similar violation in less than four months. Basic had no plan for alleviating the odor problems and proposed no immediate change in its operational practices. Therefore, the NOV requested that Basic cease discharge to the on-site disposal system and divert all wastewater to the City of Modesto sewer system until it could control odors effectively. Basic was unwilling to cease the discharge and requested that staff meet to discuss an alternate plan of action. Based on the meeting, staff approved a detailed plan for short-term and long-term term facility and operational improvements designed to eliminate the odor problem. The draft C&A formalizes the scope and schedule for these improvements. Basic must provide any comments on the draft C&A by 30 August 2000. (ALO)

Section 13267 Request for Information, Copper Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant, Calaveras County

The Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) Copper Cove WWTP has a long history of inadequate storage capacity, resulting in overflows of wastewater to surface waters. In December 1999, the Executive Officer issued a \$40,000 ACL for overflows during the spring of 1999. CCWD recently constructed a tertiary treatment plant, and at the June 2000 Board meeting received a temporary NPDES permit for the disposal of wastewater on a neighboring golf course. The WDRs for the facility were also updated at the June 2000 Board meeting. Because of continuing concerns about storage capacity, the Order required that CCWD submit a wastewater disposal operations plan by 15 July 2000 and comprehensive water balance analysis by 1 August 2000. Staff received and reviewed the documents and found them to be incomplete and contradictory. The information submitted in CCWD's water balance analysis indicates that even with irrigation at the golf course during the summer, the storage ponds do not have sufficient capacity during the winter. CCWD was directed to resubmit the required reports pursuant to Water Code Section 13267, and to take all additional steps necessary, including possible irrigation of additional land on its own property, to prevent any discharge of wastewater to surface waters this coming winter. (DLM)

Odor Complaints at City of Escalon Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Joaquin County

The City of Escalon operates a domestic and industrial wastewater treatment and disposal facility in Escalon. Dozens of odor complaints were received during late July and early August. A site inspection performed on 2 August 2000 confirmed the odor complaints, and an NOV was issued on 3 August 2000. The violations observed during the site inspection consisted of odor emanating from the industrial wastewater ponds receiving primarily tomato processing wastewater. The City of Escalon was directed to perform daily inspection and sampling of the ponds and prepare a report on the cause of the odors and procedures to be implemented to prevent recurrence of the odors. (TRO)

Nortech Waste LLC Composting Facility - Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements

During the Public Forum of the 4 August 2000 Board Meeting, Mr. John Williams expressed concern that

Nortech Waste LLC was apparently operating an unpermitted green waste composting facility at the Western Placer Waste Management Authority Material Recovery Facility located at 3033 Fiddymont Road in Roseville. Mr. Williams requested that the Board determine whether the facility was operating under a Board issued permit or had received a waiver of waste discharge requirements.

Staff has investigated this matter and determined that on 9 December 1994 the Regional Board held a public hearing in Sacramento and issued Resolution No. 94-373, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Western Placer Waste Management Authority Materials Recovery and Recycling Facility (above referenced facility). Resolution 94-373 waives waste discharge requirements with the condition that the facility shall only compost green material which includes but is not limited to, leaves, grass clippings, weeds, tree trimmings, untreated wood waste, or shrubbery cuttings. The facility also obtained a Green Waste Composting Permit from the Placer County Environmental Health Department in August 1995. (RDB)

Gary M. Carlton
Executive Officer
04 August 2000

Addenda that follow:

1. [Personnel and Administration](#)
2. [Public Outreach](#)
3. [Site Cleanup Activities](#)
4. Completed Site Cleanups
5. Report of Violations

Addendum 1

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Personnel Actions (June and July 2000)

Work & Family Advisory Group Panel

Dean Hubbard of the Fresno Office was recently selected to participate in a DPA sponsored "Work and Family Advisory Group Study" panel discussion held in Fresno. Employees from different State agencies were part of the panel that was led by an independent survey group from UCLA. The UCLA group was contracted by the DPA to conduct the survey as the result of a 1999-2000 collective bargaining agreement. The focus was on evaluating how flexible the State, as an employer, accommodates employee needs regarding various routine family matters and/or emergencies, including school functions, sick dependents that required care (adults or infants), etc., and the ease of receiving time off to accommodate

these things. The survey results will be available on-line in the near future and is to go to Governor Davis in September. (SRG)

Promotions

Les Grober, Sr. Land and Water Use Analyst

New Hires

In Fresno -

Brian Erlandsen, Env Spec I

Kerry Elliott, Engineering Geologist

In Sacramento -

Chad Dibble, Env. Spec. I

Donna Zupo, Office Assistnat

Robert Holmes, Env. Spec. III

Duncan Austin, WRC Engineer

In Redding -

Brian Smith, WRC Engineer

Addendum 2

PUBLIC OUTREACH

On 24 July, Dennis Westcot met with four Syrian water officials to brief them on the Board's approach to regulating agricultural pollutant sources. Our Rice pesticide program and the selenium control program were among those described.

On 26 July, Eric Oppenheimer and Les Grober participated in the San Joaquin River Management Program Water Quality Subcommittee. The status and future direction of real time San Joaquin River salinity management were the primary topics.

On 28 July, Harley Davis participated in a meeting of the Grassland Area Farmers Steering Committee. This group is responsible for the operation of the Grassland Bypass Project.

On 3 August, Chris Foe, Les Grober, and Rudy Schnagl met with water district managers in Westley to discuss methods to control surface agricultural return flows. A follow-up meeting was held with San Joaquin River Exchange contractors in Los Banos to discuss San Joaquin River salinity control methods and implementation alternatives.

On 7 August, Shakoora Azimi attended a meeting on Best Management Practices (BMP) with the Merced County Department of Agriculture. The meeting discussed the BMP as a significant part of an agricultural chemical management plan. Integrated pest management (IPM) practices, resistance management and pest management zones, which are designed to minimize the potential for adverse environmental impact, while maximizing beneficial effects of pesticides use were discussed.

On 11 August, Shakoora Azimi attended a meeting on OP pesticides management strategies with the Stanislaus County Department of Agriculture. On-site practices for runoff reduction, pest management strategy selection and application methods were discussed in this meeting.

On 11 August, Harley Davis participated in a meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program management group.

On 11 August, Rudy Schnagl made a presentation on the salinity/boron Basin Plan Amendment project to the San Joaquin River Management Program Advisory Council.

On 16 August, staff from the Agricultural unit and the TMDL Development held a workshop on Lower San Joaquin Valley Salinity and Boron Basin Plan Amendment and Implementation Plan at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center at Modesto. The Regional Board staff discussed and presented the concurrent water quality issues and results and comments from the previous workshops. The Regional Board staff made the following presentations:

- Results and comments from previous workshops by Rudy Schnagl
- TMDL overview and timelines by Les Grober
- NPDES discharges by Greg Vaughn
- Salt and boron TMDL by Eric Oppenheimer
- Dissolved oxygen TMDL by Chris Foe
- OP pesticides TMDL by Shakoora Azimi

On 6 July, Donna Podger attended a meeting of the "North Delta Agency Team" where the subject of discussion was scoping for the Environmental Impact Report for CALFED's North Delta Improvement Project.

On 7 July, Donna Podger attended a meeting of Delta Levees and Habitat Committee, where reuse of dredge material for levee maintenance and habitat enhancement was discussed.

On 17 July, Lori Webber attended a meeting of the Biological and Habitat Subcommittee of the Sacramento River Watershed Program. The group discussed current and proposed future bioassessment studies in the Sacramento River watershed.

On 17 July, Val Connor and Michelle McGraw met with Department of Pesticide Regulation and State

Board staff to discuss agencies and groups to contact and coordinate with for implementation of voluntary pesticide reduction plans.

On 18 July, Donna Podger attended a meeting with project leaders on the South Delta Improvements Project to discuss scoping for the EIR that is under development.

On 19 July, Karen Larsen facilitated the Sacramento River Watershed Program Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee meeting. The group discussed the contents of the Waterways newsletter, logistics for the next general stakeholders' meeting, and the progress of the Resource Center.

On 19 July, Kelly Briggs, Steve Rosenbaum, Jon Marshack, Pat Leary, and Wendy Cohen hosted five visiting staff from the Pollution Control Department of Thailand, who were in Sacramento to learn how Cal/EPA agencies manage environmental problems. Regional Board staff presented information and answered questions on our watershed, waste discharge to land, NPDES, basin planning, and site cleanup programs.

On 20 July, Kelly Briggs, Jerry Bruns, Joe Karkoski, Les Grober, Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon, Dennis Westcot, Rudy Schnagl, and Chris Foe attending a meeting with representative from Dow AgroSciences regarding the Memorandum of Agreement between the US EPA and Dow AgroSciences and proposed label changes for chlorpyrifos.

On 21 July, Rik Rasmussen, Lori Webber and Kyle Erikson met with a representative from DHS to discuss the proposed Basin Plan amendment for turbidity in Deer Creek.

On 25 July, Rik Rasmussen, Lori Webber and Kyle Erikson met with representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss issues regarding the Endangered Species Act and effluent dominated water bodies.

On 26 July, Val Connor and Lori Webber attended a joint meeting of the Toxics and Monitoring subcommittees of the Sacramento River Watershed Program. The subcommittee heard presentations on recent mercury studies and discussed the program's monitoring efforts in the Sacramento River watershed.

On 26 July, Janis Cooke attended the Cache Creek Stakeholder's Group meeting. A presentation was given on management of grazing in riparian areas.

On 26 July, Matthew Reischman participated in the Forestry Roundtable Meeting. Topics discussed included the Head of Agency (timber harvest plan appeal) Process, Sierra Nevada Budget Change Proposal (proposal to get additional funding to regulate forestry activities), USFS Sierra Nevada Framework and Roadless Areas DEISs, potential review of the California Department of Forestry/Board of Forestry and USFS Water Quality Management Plans/MAAs, and accelerated Sierra Pacific Industries/PG&E harvesting.

On 27 July, Val Connor, Richard McHenry, Kyle Erikson, Rik Rasmussen, and Lori Webber met with representatives from the El Dorado Irrigation District and the community to discuss the proposed Basin Plan amendments for turbidity, pH and temperature.

On 28 July, and 4 & 8 August Dani Berchtold participated in a series of meetings and conference calls with Caltrans and Regional and State Board staff. The meetings were conducted to assist Caltrans in developing an adequate Storm Water Management Plan as required by their statewide storm water permit.

On 1 August, Val Connor gave a presentation to members of the Western Crop Protection Association at their 2000 Regulatory Conference. Val gave the group an overview of current regulatory issues including TMDLs.

On 1 August, Matthew Reischman participated in the Water Quality Certification Coordinating Committee Meeting. Program guidance, the new petition process, potential changes to the 401 Certification Database, standard conditions for directional drilling, and Unit Cost Factors were discussed.

On 2 August, Sue McConnell and Dani Berchtold participated in the Urban Runoff Task Force Meeting at State Board. Unit Cost Factors, Performance Measures, Workplan Development, Non-filer activities and the Caltrans general permit were discussed.

On 8 August, Karen Larsen, Val Connor, and Robert Holmes attended the meeting of the Sacramento River Watershed Program Resource Center Technical Advisory Committee. The group discussed how the Resource Center could best serve stakeholders working to promote stewardship in the local watersheds.

On 8 August, Val Connor and Michelle McGraw met with Andrew Frankel, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, and Marshall Lee, Department of Pesticide Regulation, to discuss the status of the OP Pesticide Focus Group's Phase V workplan schedule and the Phase VI workplan.

On 9 and 10 August, Val Connor participated in the Watershed Management Initiative Roundtable to assist with the statewide ranking of 205 j and 319h project proposals.

On 10 August, Rik Rasmussen and Lori Webber met with staff from National Marine Fisheries Services, CDFG, EID, SWRI (EID's consultant) and a member of the public to discuss possible temperature regimes to protect Steelhead in Deer Creek. The temperature proposals will be incorporated into a draft Basin Plan amendment and will become part of a Biological Opinion written by NMFS during the Basin Plan approval process.

On 10 and 11 August, Karen Larsen participated as an instructor in the Hands on "Get WET" Training conducted by the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. The course included training on all aspects of whole effluent toxicity testing using the US EPA three-species toxicity testing protocols.

On 11 August, Rik Rasmussen attended a CALFED Drinking Water Constituents Workgroup meeting. The meeting focused on developing cost estimates and funding priorities for CALFED sponsored Drinking Water projects during stage one CALFED implementation. Stage One is the first seven years of CALFED implementation after the Record of Decision (ROD) is signed.

On 15 August, Kelly Briggs and Robert Holmes participated in the SRWP Grants Subcommittee meeting. A key issue discussed at the meeting was the Phase VI workplan for the OP Pesticide Focus Group.

On 15 August, Janis Cooke met with Lake County Supervisor Karen Mackey and staff of the Lake County Department of Public Works to discuss the Clear Lake mercury TMDL. Janis provided a brief summary of the preliminary draft of the Numeric Target Report for Mercury and described the schedule for remaining work on the Clear Lake TMDL.

On 15 August, Joe Karkoski attended the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASWIPCA) annual meeting and participated in a technical session on involving stakeholders in TMDL development.

On 16 August, Karen Larsen and Robert Holmes facilitated the meeting of the Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee of the Sacramento River Watershed Program. The group discussed logistics for the upcoming general stakeholders' meeting being held on 12 October 2000 including giving watershed awards at that meeting, the upcoming public service announcement campaign, and allocation of the funds for the next year's budget.

On 17 August, Val Connor, Michelle McGraw and Karen Larsen met with staff from the UC Davis Aquatic Toxicology Lab and AQUA-Science to discuss the status of ongoing toxicity studies and proposed biological assessments.

On 17 August, Kelly Briggs, Val Connor, Lori Webber and Robert Holmes met with UC Davis Information Center for the Environment (ICE) staff regarding the tracking and mapping of implementation of agricultural management practices.

On 17 August, Dani Berchtold participated in a seminar development meeting with SAGE (Surveyors, Architects, Geologists and Engineers of El Dorado County). The group established a curriculum for an erosion control workshop to be conducted in El Dorado County on 29 September.

On 18 August, Kelly Briggs and Michelle McGraw participated in a planning meeting with Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) staff, Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District staff and the OP Pesticide Focus Group meeting facilitator. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate agenda items for the 28-29 August Sacramento River Watershed Program OP Pesticide Focus Group and Agricultural Practices Workgroup meetings.

On 18 August, Val Connor met with staff from the UC Davis Aquatic Toxicology Lab (ATL) and the

Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the potential for a joint DFG-ATL laboratory for conducting watershed assessments.

On 20 August, Joe Karkoski gave a presentation on regulatory versus non-regulatory approaches to pesticide management to a nationwide group of pesticide regulators. The presentation was part of a U.S. EPA sponsored course on water quality policy and pesticide regulation.

On 22 August, Janis Cooke and Joe Karkoski attended a meeting of the Delta Tributaries Mercury Council. Janis gave a presentation on the preliminary draft of the Numeric Target Report for Mercury in Clear Lake and received comments from meeting participants.

On 23 August, Lori Webber and Robert Holmes attended a meeting of the Monitoring Subcommittee of the Sacramento River Watershed Program in Woodland. On 27 April, Mary Serra, Wendy Cohen, and Ton Vorster attended a public meeting in Elmira in which Kinder Morgan Energy Partners presented its Remedial Action Plan for the petroleum pipeline release that occurred beneath the town. Mary facilitated the meeting and coordinated the question and answer period.

On 20 July, Robert Reeves attended a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting held at Beale Air Force Base. The Beale RAB consists of interested community members potentially affected by restoration activities at the installation. The RAB provides a public forum through which the local communities, installations, and regulatory agencies work together in an atmosphere that encourages discussion and exchange of information regarding the cleanup process. The Air Force briefed members on the status of field efforts and progress toward meeting overall cleanup goals.

On 31 July, Jim Barton attended the Local Redevelopment Authority meeting for the Rio Vista Former Army Reserve Center. Issues affecting the re-use of the Reserve Center, notably the upcoming interim remedial actions, were discussed with the Local Redevelopment Authority.

On 14 August, Mary Serra and Wendy Cohen attended a public meeting in Elmira in which Kinder Morgan Energy Partners presented the Health Risk Assessment for the petroleum pipeline release. Mary introduced the meeting and facilitated the question and answer period.

On 16 August, Karen Bessette attended a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting held at the former Mather Air Force Base. The Mather RAB consists of interested community members potentially affected by restoration activities at the installation. The Air Force briefed members on the status of field efforts and progress toward meeting overall cleanup goals.

On 17 August, Jim Barton attended the City of Rio Vista City Council Meeting, a televised closed-circuit public meeting, which presented interim remedial actions at the Rio Vista Army Reserve Center. The Army and their consultant presented the results of their study for interim remedial actions at the site. DTSC presented the results of the initial CEQA study. We also participated in a phone-in public question and answer forum with the Army and the other regulatory agencies.

SITE CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

Union Pacific Railroad implements phytoremediation at Barber Cashew Supply Corporation (BCSC) site in Maxwell, Colusa County

This former BCSC fertilizer distribution site in Maxwell has elevated concentrations of nitrate and ammonium in soil, and nitrate in groundwater. Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) owns the property and is implementing the remediation program in accordance with Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 97-705. Phytoremediation began with the planting of 1,300 poplar saplings on approximately one acre of land in spring 2000. The poplars are expected to incorporate nitrate into their cellular material and promote microbial nitrogen transformations that convert ammonium to nitrate and then to dinitrogen gas. A comprehensive evaluation report will be provided in the spring of 2003. UPRR also has excavated soils contaminated with DDT and is pursuing an above ground on-site biological remediation process to decompose the DDT into carbon dioxide and chloride. The soils will be innoculated in the fall of 2000, and an evaluation will be provided by February 2001. (AST)

Investigation begins at Natomas Air Park, Sacramento County

This small private airport in the rapidly developing area of north Natomas was used by aerial pesticide applicators from the late 1940s to the early 1980s. Pesticides and aviation fuel are present in soil and groundwater. Board staff held a meeting for interested parties on 19 July to present what is currently known about the contamination and discuss the necessary next steps to fill data gaps. The air park consists of six parcels which are owned by 3 parties. During the meeting, an individual representing one of these owners agreed to begin investigation on the three parcels. The other two owners did not attend the meeting, but staff has sent them letters requiring an investigation and urging all three to work together to achieve a more cost-effective investigation. These two have expressed interest in joining the investigation. (AST)

Remedial Action Plan Approved for Kinder Morgan Energy Partners Petroleum Pipeline Release in Elmira, Solano County

On 15 June 2000, staff conditionally approved the final Remedial Action Plan submitted by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMEP) for its petroleum pipeline release along A Street in Elmira. KMEP submitted the plan in accordance with C&A Order No. 99-723. Two additional extraction wells have been installed, and construction is underway to pipe these wells to the treatment center. As required by the C&A, KMEP conducted a public presentation of the RAP on 27 April 2000. Citizens provided comments, many of which KMEP is acting upon.

The private supply well at 6075 B Street that showed elevated concentrations of MTBE a year ago now has no detectable concentrations of this contaminant. Various data indicate that this well was pulling over contaminant mass, and since it is no longer used, it should remain free of detectable concentrations of

MTBE. The Department of Toxic Substances Control accepted KMEP's Draft for Public Comment Health Risk Assessment on 16 July. KMEP presented this document in a public meeting on 14 August, and the public comment period ends on 5 September. (MES)

J.R. Simplot Cleans Up Soil and Expands Its Phytoremediation Project, Courtland, Yolo County

In June, Simplot excavated pesticide-contaminated soil from six locations at its former fertilizer distribution center in Courtland in the first of a two-part effort this year to remediate soil and groundwater. Once confirmation soil samples obtained from the excavations showed that all the pesticide-contaminated soil was removed to below the cleanup levels, Simplot began treatment of the soil by low temperature thermal desorption (LTTD). Contaminated soil is fed through the LTTD system where it is heated to 750°F, thereby removing most organic pesticides. The system is 99 percent efficient in removing the pesticides from the soil. Treated soil is being used to backfill the excavations.

In May 1997, Simplot planted a 2.8-acre grove of eucalyptus trees adjacent to the site to remediate shallow groundwater contaminated with fertilizers. Groundwater is pumped from the downgradient edge of the site and used to drip irrigate the eucalyptus grove. Remediation using trees or other plants is known as phytoremediation. In the second part of this year's effort, Simplot will plant poplar trees on approximately 2.5 acres, including five of the six excavation areas. The poplar trees will be used to clean up fertilizers from the soil. Additionally, the roots from the trees should reach the water table, which is about 10 feet below the ground surface, within the next three years. Once the tree roots reach the water table, they should extract the fertilizer-contaminated groundwater. (JEM)

Union Pacific Railroad Starts Operation of a Modified Groundwater Remediation System, Tracy, San Joaquin County

In July, Union Pacific Railroad (UP) began operation of a modified groundwater treatment system. The original system extracted groundwater from 21 wells at the downgradient edge of the contaminant plume, and provided containment for the contaminants, but did not treat the source area. The modified system includes eight dual phase extraction wells and three soil vapor extraction wells in the source area, in addition to five of the original groundwater extraction wells. Dual phase extraction is a vacuum-enhanced fluid pumping technology in which vapor and liquid are simultaneously extracted in the same process stream. After the system has had a chance to equilibrate, UP will evaluate the effectiveness of the system and analyze the groundwater capture zone to make sure contaminants are not migrating from the site. (JEM)

Site Cleanup Activities Begin at Ven Virotek Facility, Kern County

In July, staff met with representatives of the Kern County Waste Management Department to discuss cleanup of the VenVirotek facility. VenVirotek, located on county property adjacent to the Arvin Sanitary Landfill, treated and solidified liquid oilfield wastes for use as alternative daily cover on the landfill in accordance with specified waste acceptance criteria. VenVirotek was unable to consistently meet the waste acceptance criteria, resulting in a large stockpile of partially treated waste in violation of its WDRs. VenVirotek also accepted a small, undetermined number of loads of hazardous waste in violation of its WDRs. VenVirotek has since dissolved as an entity and abandoned the site, leaving the stockpiled wastes. Kern County, as the land owner, is preparing a program to characterize the wastes and any

impacts to groundwater. Following the site characterization, the wastes will be discharged to an appropriate facility and the VenVirotek site clean-closed. The county will be submitting a work plan and time schedule for the characterization and closure in the near future. (DSJ)